

October 19, 2016

Ten Years of the Feather Atlas of North American Birds

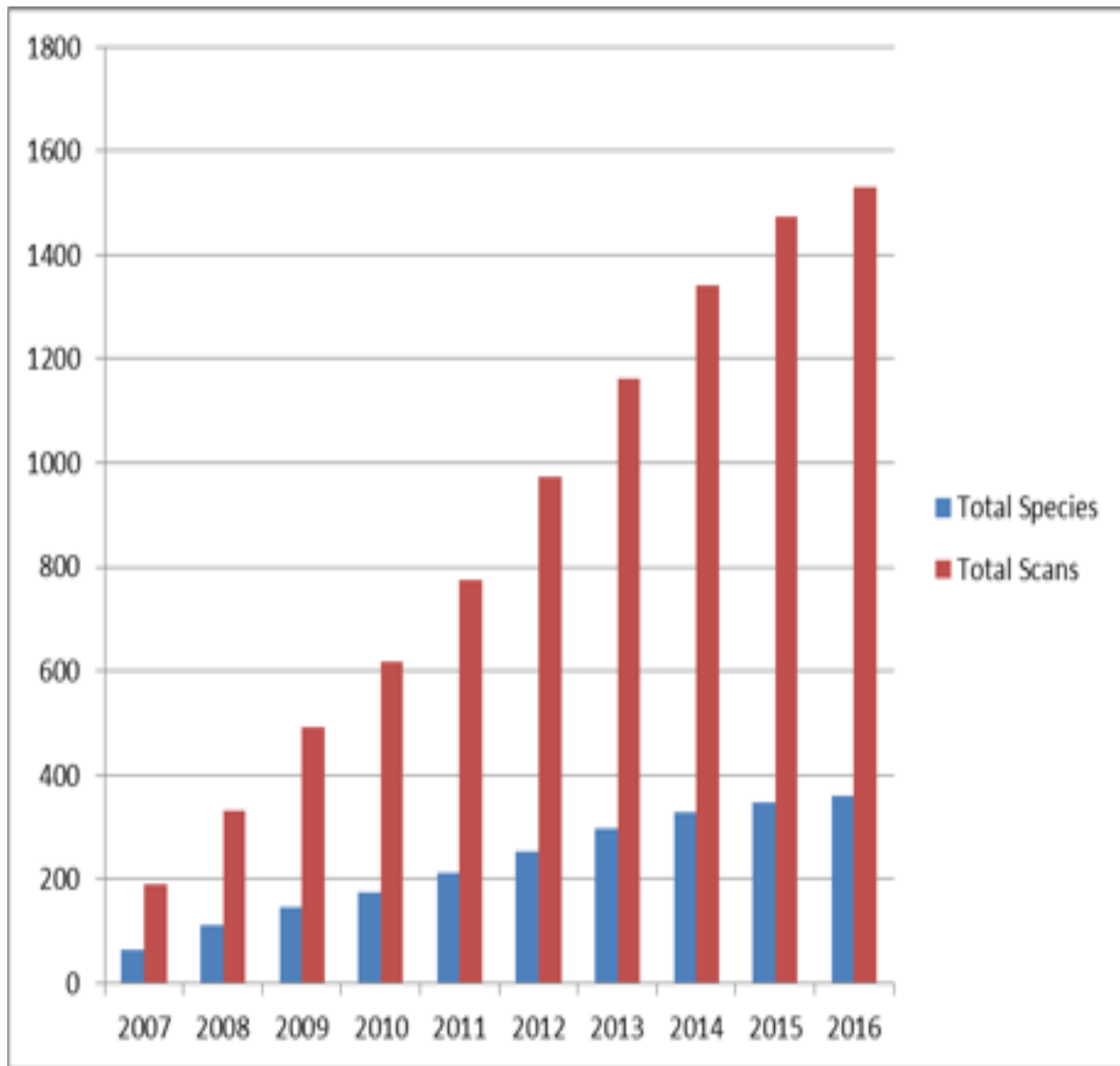
The Feather Atlas of North American Birds began in 2006 as a small project to illustrate the flight feathers of raptor species commonly seen in law enforcement casework. It quickly became obvious that the website could become a feather identification resource of value not only to USFWS law enforcement (its original intended audience), but to students, teachers, birders, ornithologists, and artists.

Over the past ten years, The Feather Atlas has grown to become the leading feather identification resource on the web. The site now contains over 1500 scans, illustrating the flight feathers of 360 species. For the past five years, The Feather Atlas has received well over one million page views per year, and is the top site returned for the entry “feather identification” on the Google, Bing, and Yahoo search engines.

Feather Atlas scans have been used in educational materials by Environment and Climate Change Canada, as well as by web designers, nature centers, artists, and school teachers. We have provided high-resolution scans to researchers at UCLA, Yale, University of Texas, University of Oklahoma, University of Montana, and the University of Cape Town, and have responded to inquiries from Chile, Brazil, Venezuela, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Portugal, Israel, South Africa, and Malaysia. It is the model for several “feather atlas” websites under development in Europe and South America.

The Feather Atlas continues to grow and thrive thanks to the support of the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory (especially the web design work of Brad Foster) and to the unfailing dedication of volunteer Sue Polich. We enter The Feather Atlas’ second decade with plans for ongoing enhancements and with the goal of complete coverage of the flight feathers of the birds of North America.

FEATHER ATLAS CONTENT (Total Species and Scans)



FEATHER ATLAS PAGEVIEWS (Millions of

